

We might question the justice of this charge, as regards amputations at least, for these operations are, we think, certainly described with sufficient minuteness in most modern surgical text-books. With regard to ligations, on the other hand, how often, we may ask, is "every practitioner" actually called upon to take up the peroneal artery, or the subclavian, not to speak of those which the author calls exceptional operations, such as deligation of the innominate, or of the common iliac?

The truth is that the value of such manuals as Dr. Farabeuf's is not in teaching the student methods of treatment which he will with any probability have occasion to resort to in practice, but in furnishing him with a guide for such operations as he can conveniently perform in the dissecting-room, and the habit of performing which will impart to him a facility in manipulation which can afterwards be utilized in any surgical procedure he may be called upon to undertake.

Regarded in such a light, Dr. Farabeuf's book seems to us a very good one; the directions for performing the various operations are clear and sufficient, and the illustrations, upon the whole, better than those which are found in the chapters on ligations in most of our text-books. When, however, a surgeon, called upon to tie an artery in its continuity, finds it necessary to refresh his memory as to the anatomical relations of the vessel with which he is going to deal, he will, we think, do better to resort at once to the dissecting table, or, if this cannot be done, to a large work such as that of MacLise, rather than to any pocket-manual, excellent though this may be of its kind.

Dr. Jackson has done his work as translator in a satisfactory manner; if we were to offer any criticism upon this point, it would be that his version is unnecessarily literal.

The book is neatly, and, indeed, elegantly printed, and the illustrations, as we have already mentioned, more than ordinarily good; though the latter are numbered from one to forty-three, there are really but thirty-five, eight being made to do double duty in different parts of the volume. J. A., JR.

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ART. XXX.—*Skin Diseases; an Inquiry into their Parasitic Origin, and Connection with Eye Affections; also the Fungoid or Germ Theory of Cholera.* By JABEZ HOGG, Surgeon to the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital, etc. etc. 12mo. pp. 108. London: Ballière, Tindall & Cox, 1873.

THIS is truly a most extraordinary little work! When we consider that it was written in the year eighteen hundred and seventy-three, by one living in the heart of great London, surrounded by all the literature which the world offers, we cannot otherwise than wonder how it was possible for the author to stray so far away from truth and recognized fact. To say that he has seen with his microscope what no else has ever seen, or probably ever will see, gives but a faint idea of the many startling statements which meet the eye upon almost every page.

In turning over the first pages of the monograph we come upon a passage which causes us to pause and ask ourselves whether we know anything of the nature of cutaneous diseases; or has our author progressed with such rapid strides into pathology as to have left us, and the literature of yesterday, far, far back among the things that were! After a brief introduction, our author says: "The cases investigated were chiefly derived from fourteen genera of Willan's classification;

namely, *Porrigo*, *Psoriasis*, *Pityriasis*, *Sycosis*, *Lepra*, *Lupus*, *Lichen*, *Impetigo*, *Furunculus*, *Eczema*, *Vitiligo*, *Spilus*, *Ichthyosis*, and *Acne*. The spores or filaments of a cryptogamic plant were found in most of the genera." Now, without further remark, it is very evident that either the author possesses most remarkable powers of vision, and has made some valuable discoveries in pathology, or that he has fallen into a series of most egregious errors. Let us examine a few of his statements. After a vague and indefinite account of *psoriasis*, for the most part erroneous, we read: "In all, twenty cases of the various forms of *psoriasis* and *lepra* were examined; and in twelve of them spores and threads were found, mixed with epithelium and granular matters; but in no respect did the fungoid elements differ from those discovered and described as belonging to other dermatophytæ." A few lines further on we notice, "that *psoriasis* is not of local or parasitic origin, is proved by the failure of topical applications in its treatment." It must be admitted, we think, that the views entertained are by no means clear concerning the pathology of this disease! *Eczema* also receives microscopic study from our author, who states that "the hair is matted together by the discharge, and in four out of six cases examined, I observed the spores or mycelia of a fungus. In one, the spores were in masses or minute heaps; and in another, an epithelial cast, from which the hair had escaped, was surrounded by a filamentous growth that had probably encircled the hair." In *ichthyosis* there were "fungus threads binding the scales more intimately together, weaving them, as it were, into a consolidated mass." *Lichen simplex*, or *eczema papulosum* as we should prefer to call it, was found to contain its due proportion of "spores," they being "of a reddish-brown colour, invading the shafts of the hairs, similar indeed to the fungus found in *mentagra*." The pathology of *lupus*, which we did think was becoming quite comfortably settled, has likewise received a blow from our author, he having found in two out of eight cases investigated, "evidences of fungoid spores, mixed with epithelial scales, fat and pus-corpuscles, and dark-looking granular bodies." But we shall quote no more. The experiments are valueless, for no detail is given as to the manner in which the examinations were conducted. The "spores and threads" of *psoriasis*; the "spores and mycelia of a fungus" found in *eczema*; the "fungus threads" of *ichthyosis*; the "reddish-brown spores" of *eczema papulosum*; the "evidences of fungoid spores" discovered in *lupus*, etc. etc., afford but a very imperfect picture to the mind of the mycologist. Science demands more accuracy in its nomenclature, and a reference to the mycologies of Corda, Bonorden, Fresenius, Du Barry, and others, would have shown our author that it is customary, in the scientific world, to describe fungi in more definite terms. An extremely rough wood-cut ornaments one page, where these various hitherto undescribed vegetable growths are professed to be shown.

The book is written in a thoroughly unscientific manner, and in the hands of the general reader, for whom it was evidently written, it can only mislead, and be the means of disseminating theories which have not so much as their shadow to support them.

L. A. D.